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1: Cancer J Sci Am. 1997 Sep-Oct;3(5):297-302.

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A dose-seeking trial of edatrexate in combination with vinblastine, adriamycin, cisplatin, and filgrastim (EVAC/G-CSF) in patients with advanced malignancies: promising antineoplastic activity against non-small cell lung carcinomas.

Colon-Otero G, Marschke R, Camoriano JK, Sorensen JM, Sloan JA, Richardson RL.

Division of Hematology/Oncology, Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, FL 32224, US

PURPOSE: To determine the maximum tolerated dose, toxicities, and potent antitumor activity of edatrexate (E), an antifolate agent with enhanced in vitro antitumor activity as compared with methotrexate (M), when given in combination with vinblastine, doxorubicin, cisplatin, and filgrastim (G-CSF) to patients with advanced malignancies. **PATIENTS AND METHODS:** Thirty-seven patients with advanced malignancies were treated with escalating doses of edatrexate in combination with vinblastine (V), doxorubicin (A), cisplatin (C), and filgrastim (EVAC/G-CSF) following three different subsequently developed schedules. Schedule 1 was patterned after the MVAC regimen, a combination chemotherapy program with activity against different epithelial malignancies, and consisted of 40 mg/m²/day, days 1/15/22; V, 3 mg/m²/day, days 2/15/22; A, 30 mg/m²/day, day 2; C, 70 mg/m²/day, day 2; repeated every 28 days. Schedules 2 and 3 were designed to avoid observed dose-limiting toxicity on schedule 1 consisting of transient elevation of serum creatinine levels and delayed myelosuppression. Schedule 2 consisted of E, 40 or 60 mg/m²/day, days 1 and 15; V, 3 mg/m²/day, days 2 and 15; A, 30 mg/m²/day, day 2; C, 30 mg/m²/day, days 1 and 2; cycled every 28 days. Schedule 3 consisted of E, 60 to 120 mg/m²/day, day 1; V, 3 mg/m²/day, day 2; A, 30 mg/m²/day, day 2; C, 30 mg/m²/day, days 1 and 2; cycled every 21 days. Filgrastim 5 micrograms/kg/day was given to all patients subcutaneously until the absolute neutrophil count was greater than 10,000/mm³ postnadir. Three patients were treated on schedule 1, 10 on schedule 2 (four at a dose of 40 mg/m²/day and six at an E dose of 60 mg/m²/day), and 24 on schedule 3 (six at each of the following E dosages: 60, 80, 100, and 120 mg/m²/day). **RESULTS:** Dose-limiting toxicities of grade 3 to 4 leukopenia and transient elevation of serum creatinine values were observed in two of three patients treated on schedule 1. A dose-limiting toxicity of grade 3 to 4 leukopenia was noted in six patients treated on schedule 2 at an edatrexate dose of 60 mg/m²/day.

of six patients treated on schedule 3 at an edatrexate dose of 120 mg/m²/day dose-limiting toxicity of grade 3 stomatitis (one patient) and grade 3 cytopen (one patient). Nineteen of 37 patients with evaluable or measurable disease had response to treatment (response rate 51%, 95% confidence intervals = 35%-66%). Nine of 15 patients with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer responded, including one complete remission (response rate 60%, confidence intervals = 35%-85%). A median survival of 517 days (confidence interval = 163-808 days) and a 1-year survival rate of 60% (confidence interval = 35%-85%) was seen in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer. CONCLUSIONS: The maximum tolerated dose and the recommended phase II dose of edatrexate is 100 mg/m² when administered as part of the EVAC/G-CSF program following schedule. Promising antineoplastic activity against non-small cell lung carcinomas was observed, and a phase II study is planned.

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